

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, UNGA, US, ML
SUBJ: HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
SEC VISIT: 33RD UNGA

REF: (A) BAMAko 2648, (B) STATE 184758

1. SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS REPEATED HIS DESIRE
TO BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON DURING THE UNGA.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REQUEST. END SUMMARY

2. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
SEYDOU TRAORE, CONVOKED ME ON AUGUST 24 TO REPEAT, ON BEHALF
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE REQUEST FIRST MADE TO ME ON
JUNE 1 (REFTEL A) TO BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON
DURING THE MINISTER'S STAY IN THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION
WITH THE UNGA. (FOREIGN MINISTER ALIOUNE BLTDIN BEYE HAS
JUST RETURNED FROM A LONG TRIP TO KHARTOUM, BRUSSELS,
BELGRADE, BUCHAREST, PEKING, PYONGYAN, PARIS, AND NOUAKCHOTT
AND IS NOW FOCUSING ON NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.)

3. TRAORE SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER RECOGNIZED THAT
THE SECRETARY NORMALLY HELD BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS IN
NEW YORK BUT BEYE WAS PERSONALLY MOST ANXIOUS
TO CALL ON MR. VANCE IN WASHINGTON. HIS REASONS WERE
THAT HE WAS NEW (BEYE WAS NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE
MAY 4 CABINET FOLLOWING PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE'S
PREEMPTIVE COUP IN FEBRUARY) AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY,
THAT HE WISHED TO "GIVE A NEW MEANING TO U.S. - MALI
COOPERATION." HE THEREFORE PREFERRED NOT TO BE RECEIVED

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IN THE "NORMAL" NEW YORK MEETINGS BUT WANTED TO GIVE THE VISIT "A SPECIAL CHARACTER" BY GOING TO WASHINGTON.

4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF A MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SORY COULIBALY'S IN 1969 AND THAT SINCE THAT TIME NO MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE EVEN IN NEW YORK.

5. SO FAR AS SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION WERE CONCERNED, TRAORE SAID BEYE WOULD WANT TO HAVE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, ON THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, AND ON U.S. - MALI BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE LIST COULD BE REFINED LATER.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL TRAVEL TO NEW YORK FROM A VISIT TO RUMANIA, ARRIVING NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20. HIS SPEECH IN THE GENERAL DEBATE IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 29, AND HE WILL LEAVE FOR MALI ON OCTOBER 1 OR 2. BEYE STRONGLY HOPED THAT AT SOME TIME DURING THAT PERIOD HE COULD HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE. THE COMPOSITION OF THE REST OF THE DELEGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

8. WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THE PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 33RD SESSION OF THE UNGA.

9. COMMENT: AT THE RUMANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION HELD LAST EVENING THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF REITERATED TO ME HIS INTENSE WISH TO SEE THE SECRETARY, AND IN WASHINGTON. I MADE NO COMMITMENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OTHER THAN TO COMMUNICATE THE REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT. I VERY STRONGLY SUPPORT THE IDEA, HOWEVER. AFTER MISS LILLIAN'S HUGELY SUCCESSFUL VISIT AND PRESIDENT TRAORE'S UNUSUAL GESTURE OF CALLING ON HER AS A SPECIAL MARK OF ESTEEM FOR THE MOTHER OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (HE HAD NEVER BEFORE SET FOOT IN ANY DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE), IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT DEVELOPMENT IF THE SECRETARY COULD RECEIVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND IF POSSIBLE IN WASHINGTON.
BYRNE

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